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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 10/766,740 | 01/26/2004 | John P. Jackam | 04-0126-JACK | 2847 |
| 54487 | 7590 | 08/23/2007 | | |
| JONES & SMITH, LLP THE RIVIANA BUILDING 2777 ALLEN PARKWAY, SUITE 800 HOUSTON, TX 77019-2141 | | | EXAMINER TOOMER, CEPHIA D | |
| | | | ART UNIT 1714 | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | MAIL DATE 08/23/2007 | DELIVERY MODE PAPER |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/766,740 | Applicant(s) JACKAM ET AL. | |
| | Examiner Cephia D. Toomer | Art Unit 1714 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 January 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 77-81, 83-94, 96-126, 128-132 and 134-158 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 77-81, 83-89, 98, 99, 101, 105, 108, 113, 115-123, 132 and 135-158 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 90-94, 96, 97, 100, 102, 106, 107, 109-112, 114, 124-126, 128-131 and 134 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This Office action is in response to the amendment filed January 10, 2007.

The Obviousness-type Double Patenting rejection is withdrawn in view of the terminal disclaimer.

The rejection of the claims under 35 USC 112, first paragraph is withdrawn in view of Applicant clarifying where the claim limitations find support in the specification.

The rejection of the claims under 35 USC 102(b) is withdrawn in view of the amendment to the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 96, 97, 111, 112 and 134 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The claims are rejected because they are dependents of canceled claims.

3. Upon closer inspection of the prior art, it is the examiner's position that the prior art, Van Loon anticipates the following claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

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A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 90-94, 100, 102, 106, 107, 109, 110, 114, 124-126 and 128-131 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Van Loon (US 2,588,435).

Van Loon teaches a process wherein free fatty acids are esterified with an excess of glycerol in the presence of absence of a catalyst at 225 °C (see col. 1, lines 1-6, 44-51; col. 2, lines 3-10, 24-32) to form a mixture of mono-, di-, and triglycerides. This mixture is then submitted to alcoholysis with ethyl or methyl alcohol (see col. 3, lines 13-27; col. 4, lines 54-56) to form ethyl or methyl esters of fatty acids and glycerides (see col. 3, lines 27-29). The esters may be separated from the glycerides by distillation (see col. 3, lines 44-47). The catalyst may be an alkali catalyst such as hydroxides or alkali compounds of polyhydric alcohols (see col. 3, lines 61-66). It should be noted that Applicant intended use is given no way since Van Loon teaches the same process steps and the same end product.

Accordingly, Van Loon teaching all the limitations of the claims anticipates the claims.

4. Claims 77-81, 83-89, 98, 99, 101, 103-105, 108, 113, 115-123, 132 and 135-158 are allowable because the prior art fails to teach or suggest the claimed processes.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cephia D. Toomer whose telephone number is 571-272-1126. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vasu Jagannathan can be reached on 571-272-1119. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Cephia D. Toomer
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1714

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